Doubling of Konkan rail line

5491. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister-of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many trains run on the Konkan Railway;

(b) whether the new Delhi-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express is always late by couple of hours because it has single track; and

(c) whether Railway have any plan to double this line in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIO. RAJAGOPAL): (a) At present, 17 pairs of trains run on the Konkan Railway. In addition, 6 pairs of trains traverse 12 kms. of the Konkan Railway track while running between Kulem and Vasco-da-gama of South Central Railway.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Rail Yatri Niwas in Tamil Nadu

5492. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to set up Rail Yatri Niwas Bhawans at important tourist places in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Railways through their newly set up Corporation (Indian Railway Catering andTourism Corporation Ltd.) propose to set up Budget Hotels at various locations in the country including Tamil Nadu. This is subject to availability of suitable land and commercial justifications.

SKY Bus Project in Mumbai

5493. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan for a SKY Bus Project in Mumbai in collaboration with Konkan Railway Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Maharashtra has appointed Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA) as a nodal agency to implement SKY Bus Metro in Mumbai. Based on the proposals submitted by Konkan Railway to MMRDA, they are planning to implement SKY Bus Metro from Andheri to Ghatkopar in collaboration with Konkan Railway. The details of methodology of implementation are being worked out.

(c) The financial and implementation schedule in yet to be worked out.

Facilities and amenities at New Delhi Railway Station

5494. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Times of India of 15th April, 2002 that passenger facilities/ amenities at the New Delhi Railway Station are far below, and utter confusion prevailed for purchase of platform tickets, securing wheeled chair for handicapped, etc.;

(b) if so, whether administration had failed to provide sufficient stock and passenger guides to help the passengers, especially the handicapped;

(c) whether DRM officials, sitting close-by failed to monitor the arrangements/facilities, especially during peak hours; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the administration to take care of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI 0. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, the said report highlights the problem of purchasing platform tickets and securing wheel chair for handicapped at New Delhi Railway Station.